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MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 1736.

No. 469.

LETTER XI. *From the* Sugar Planters.

SIR,

WE have heard two Reports concerning theſe Letters; for which Reaſon of late we have ſlacken'd our Correſpondence, thinking that ſomething would be publiſhed that might convince us of our Miſtakes and ſet us right: But nothing of this Kind having as yet come to our Knowledge, it may not be unſeaſonable for us to ſpeak a Word or two on thoſe Heads before the Parliament meets; theſe Letters being wrote to give our *Repreſentatives* a juſt and perfect Knowledge of the Nature and Circumſtances of our *Weſt India* Trade and Colonies.

ONE of the ſaid Reports is, that ſome eminent Merchants in this City, have declared ſome Facts contained in our Letters to be falſe.

THE other of the ſaid Reports is, that our Letters being publiſhed in a *Miniſterial* Paper (as your's is called) are mere Banters, and calculated not to inform, but to amuſe and deceive the Nation: And this Report we heard from the Country.

As to the firſt of theſe Reports, we ſay, that we think (for we do not pretend to be infallible) that we have Facts and Authorities ready to produce in Support of our Writings; and we believe we ſhall be allowed to have acquired as much perſonal Knowledge and Experience in the Matters we diſcourſe of as moſt Perſons: —— But we deſire to deal openly and above Board with all; and let any Gentleman or Merchant ſend us their Objections and the Reaſons for them, we will fairly publiſh them and *plain ourſelves*, or *readily give up the Point, and acknowledge our Miſtakes*: For Truth (as we have more than once declared) and the national Good are the two Things which we have chiefly and ultimately in View: And of this we are well able to give demonſtrative Proofs, if any one ſhall think fit to call upon us.

As to the other of theſe Reports. —— Is it not unfair, that every thing that appears in a *Miniſterial* Paper, muſt not be allowed to be wrote with an honeſt Intention, or Deſign to promote Trade, enlarge our Colonies, or benefit the Nation? —— But certainly it is very *unfair* and very *injurious*.—— Here we may venture to affirm, what we very well know, 'that had the *French* Miniſters met with the like Oppoſition and Embarraſſments as the *Britiſh*, and their Powers been as limited in theſe Matters, it would have been impoſſible for the *French* Sugar Colonies ever to have been brought to any thing like the rich and flouriſhing Condition, in which, to our infinite Reproach, they appear at this Day.'

We have heretofore obſerved, what a prodigious Advantage theſe our mighty Rivals have over us in this Reſpect, *viz.* they do *Conſtitute*, *Abrogate*, or *Reform* in a Day or a Week, more than we, through the Nature and Inaptitude of our Government, can reform of the like Sort, in one, two, three, or perhaps a Dozen Years. An *Edict*, or Letters Patent in form of an Edict, are iſſued in an Inſtant; but our *Acts* of Parliament, relating to Trade, meet with ſo much, and ſuch a Variety of Oppoſition, that Opportunity is generally loſt, and the true Intereſt of the Nation frequently defeated, by the ſeparate and claſhing Contentions, of ignorant and deſigning Men.

It is very notorious likewiſe, that when a Committion of Traders are reſolved to hinder the Paſſing of a Bill, and know that they are on the wrong Side of the Queſtion; then they lie bye, as long as they can, and at laſt ſtart their Objections to *puzzle*, or *gain Time*; by which Means the good Purpoſes of an excellent Bill have been deſtroyed and utterly buried in Oblivion.

THERE is alſo another Practice or Piece of Management, which has been very much in Faſhion, and look'd upon to be a *Fineſſe* amongſt *Us*; and that is, 'for ſome People in Trade never to furniſh the *Miniſtry* with any juſt Lights or true Informations, with a Deſign, or in a Way, or at a Time, 'to have Things *alter'd for the Better*, —— but to 'throw in Matter for Complaint, or Heads for a 'Proteſt, or ſome how or other to make themſelves '(what they call) *formidable*, at a preſſing Juncture, '—— of which Proof might be brought on Occaſion.'

FOR theſe and ſuch like Reaſons, ſince we *formerly offered*, and do now again *offer*, to give Satisfaction on every Point where it ſhall be demanded of us; ſo may we not juſtly hope, that no Offence will be taken, if we, in our Turn, do deſire our Opponents to reſolve, not merely *us*, but the Collective Power and Wiſdom of the whole *Britiſh* Nation, a *few Queſtions* with Deliberation, and an old *Britiſh Heart*, —— nor to fall on all at once by way of Surprize or Ambuſcade.

If our Objectors will previouſly do this, in a candid and honeſt Manner, it will ſave them Pen, Ink and Paper, and our *Repreſentatives* will be ſoon ſenſible, 'On what Baſis the true Intereſt of this 'Nation and that of all its *Colonies* may be ſettled and 'ſecured in Conformity to *each other*, and the univerſal Benefit of *the whole Community*.'

THE *Queſtions* we deſire may be anſwered, are:

1. Do not the Inhabitants of the *Britiſh* Northern Colonies multiply, in as ſurprizing a Degree as thoſe of the Sugar Colonies do decreaſe? And do not People from *England*, *Scotland*, *Ireland*, our *Sugar Colonies*, and Foreigners continually flock to thoſe Plantations, carrying all their Stock and Subſtance with them?

2. Do any of the People who thus go from their Mother-Countries to the *Britiſh* Northern Colonies, afterwards forſake theſe Colonies to ſettle in other Parts, except as Merchants, Factors, or in ſome Employment dependent on them?

3. How many Families of late have quitted the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies* to live in the Northern Colonies, and fix themſelves and Poſterity there?

4. ARE not the White Inhabitants in the *Britiſh* Sugar Colonies fit to bear Arms, reduced to a *defenceleſs* and inconſiderable Number?

5. Is it poſſible for the *Sugar* Colonies to caſt off their Dependence on *Great Britain*?

6. ARE not theſe Colonies entirely under the Government of the Crown?

7. Do any of their Products or Manufactures interfere with thoſe of *Great Britain*?

8. DOES not all the Shipping employed in the Sugar Trade belong to *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, or the *Northern* Colonies?

9. ON the other Hand, is it impoſſible for the *Northern Colonies* to ſhake off their Dependency? Are the Conſtitutions of their Governments, ſuch as be conſonant to the Intereſt of their Mother-Country, ſo as to admit of no Regulation for the better? Do none of their Commodities and Manufactures interfere with thoſe of *Great Britain*? May not the Increaſe of their Shipping and Navigation in Time, prove *dangerous* as well as prejudicial to the Kingdom? And will not *Great Britain* ſoon ſee the Neceſſity of regulating all her Colonies for her ſuperior Intereſts, and the general Good of the whole Community?

10. MOREOVER, is it not allowed by every one, that the *Britiſh Sugar Colonies*, Power and Trade in the *Weſt Indies*, are all over-ballanced by its moſt dangerous Rival; and that they muſt inevitably ſink, unleſs Meaſures, the moſt prudent and vigorous, be taken for their Preſervation?

11. NOW then we ask; if the Traders of *Ireland* and the *Northern* Colonies to the *French* Sugar Colonies, continue ſtill by their Trade to ſupply theſe Rivals of ours with ſhipping Proviſions, Lumber, and all Things neceſſary, and our Sugar Colonies come to be *abandoned* or *conquered*, would not *they* (*Ireland* and the *Northern* Colonies) ſoon be made ſenſible of their Error?

12. FOR, is it to be imagined, that the *French*, when their own Sugar Colonies are perfectly eſtabliſhed, our's ruined, and the whole Manufacture engroſſed by them; that *they* will *then* permit *Ireland* and our *Northern* Colonies, to trade to their *Sugar Colonies*, any more, than the *Dutch*, *Spaniards* or *Portugueze*, will at preſent permit us to trade to their Spice Iſlands or Mines?

13. AND what will *Ireland* then ſay to the Loſs of a Trade of 100,000 *l. per Ann.* exported in its own Shipping? And what will our *Northern* Colonies ſay to the Loſs of a Trade of 250,000 *l. per Ann.* likewiſe exported in their own Shipping; for ſo much are their Advantages from our Sugar Iſlands, and which conſequently muſt be loſt with them? —— In *that Day*, we, for our Parts, cannot conceive what they will be able *to ſay*, either for *themſelves* or for *Great Britain*: *They* for being *acceſſory* to, and *Great Britain* for indulging them in, the Deſtruction of ſuch a valuable Part of her Dominions and Trade! —— only for the Sake of a *temporary*, *precarious*, *uncertain*, and not *national* Profit; of no longer Duration, than *the Pleaſure of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty* and his Officers in the *Weſt Indies*. —— But, be *that Day* averted! *We are*,

SIR,

Your very humble Servant.

Dec. 23. 1736.

The SUGAR PLANTERS.

LONDON.

Yeſterday Morning Mr. Bill, one of his Majeſty's Meſſengers, arrived at St. James's, with Advice, that on Monday laſt his Majeſty, on board the Royal Caroline Yacht, ſet ſail with the Convoy of Men of War and the reſt of the Yachts; but after being at Sea all that Day and Night, were obliged to put back to Helvoetſluys on Tueſday Morning, the Wind coming directly againſt them.

Soon after came Advice that his Majeſty's Ships the Eltham, commanded by the Lord Auguſtus Fitzroy, was arrived at Margate, and the Princeſs Louiſa in the Downs, being Part of the Convoy belonging to Sir Charles Wager's Squadron, which had been ſeparated from the other Ships, &c. 'Tis reported that the Eltham had ſuffered much at Sea, having loſt her Maſts, &c.

And Yeſterday at One o'Clock came Advice, that his Majeſty was returned ſafe to Helvoetſluys, where he remained in good Health, waiting for a favourable Wind: His Majeſty was 36 Hours out at Sea.

Laſt Saturday died in Childbed, in Groſvenor's Square, very much lamented, the Right Hon. the Lady Louiſa Viſcounteſs Weymouth, ſecond Wife to the Right Hon. the Lord Viſcount Weymouth, by whom ſhe has left Iſſue three Sons, the Eldeſt of whom is Thomas, who was born September 13, 1734. Her Ladyſhip was ſecond Daughter to the Right Hon. the Lord Carteret, and Siſter to the Lady of the Right Hon. John Spencer, Eſq; Brother to his Grace the Duke of Marlborough: His Lordſhip on the Sixth of December 1726, married the Hon. the Lady Elizabeth Sackville, eldeſt ſurviving Daughter of the Duke of Dorſet, who died the 29th of June 1729, but had no Iſſue by her. And he married his ſecond Lady, now deceaſed, in 1733.

Laſt Week a Duel was fought between Captain Pinnel, Commander of the Louiſa, an Eaſt India Ship outward bound, and Mr. Onſlow Burriſh, one of the Supercargo's of the Montague, another Eaſt India Ship; they both ſailed from the Downs together about 10 Days ſince; but by contrary Winds were obliged to put into Plymouth: In the Skirmiſh we hear Mr. Burriſh was very much wounded.

Laſt Saturday being Chriſtmas Day in the Morning her Majeſty, their Royal Highneſſes the Prince and Princeſs of Wales, the Princeſſes Amelia and Caroline, received the Holy Communion in her Majeſty's Apartments, from the Hands of the Rev. Dr. Butler, Clerk of the Cloſet to her Majeſty. At Noon her Majeſty, the Prince and Princeſs of Wales, and Princeſſes, went to the Royal Chapel at St. James's, and heard divine Service performed by the Rev. D. Gilbert, Dean of Exeter, and Sub-Almoner to his Majeſty; but the Knights Companions of the Garter, Thiſtle and Bath, did not appear in their reſpective Orders at St. James's, on Account of his Majeſty's Abſence.

Yeſterday her Majeſty, their Royal Highneſſes the Prince and Princeſs of Wales, and the Princeſſes Amelia and Caroline, went to the Royal Chapel at St.

St. James's, and heard divine Service perform'd by the Rev. Dr. Clark.

The ſame Day the Rev. Dr. George, preached before his Highneſs the Duke, and the Princeſſes Mary and Louiſa, in his Highneſs's Apartments.

Laſt Saturday Morning died at Brentford, John Forreſter, Eſq; a Gentleman juſt come of Age, and to an Eſtate of 3000 l. per Ann.

The Right Hon. Sir William Yonge's Lady who has been dangerouſly ill, is in a fair Way of Recovery. And his four Children who were lately Inoculated for the Small Pox, are alſo like to do well.

Mr. Henry Hart of King's Street, Weſtminſter, is appointed Clerk to the Commiſſioners of the Land Tax for the Pariſh of St. Margaret's, Weſtminſter, in the room of Mr. Humphry Drew, deceaſed.

A few Days ſince Sir John Ellwell, Bart. Comptroller of the Exciſe Office, appointed Mr. Stanley to be Deputy Comptroller in the room of Mr. Hughs, deceaſed.

There are upwards of 50 Perſons employed Night and Day in mending the great Breach which the Tide made on Friday Morning laſt on the Bank Side, Weſtminſter. The Gardeners have ſuſtained very conſiderable Damage on this Occaſion, their Gardens being for the moſt Part ſtill under Water, which have entirely ſpoiled their early Crops. Mr. Smith, Gardener near Tothill-Fields, has received 200 l. Damages, and 'tis thought the whole will amount to upwards of 1000 l.

We hear that the ſaid Tide has made a large Breach about a Mile below that called Dagenham Breach, on the Eſſex Shore, by which Means the Country was overflowed for ſeveral Miles, and great Damage done to the Farmers and others.

BANKRUPTS.

Luke Burmaſter, of Cole Harbour in Thames-ſtreet, Sugar Baker.

William Pills, of Lynn Regis in the County of Norfolk, Felt-Maker.

Friday Bank Stock was 148 1-half. India 179 1-4th for the Opening. South Sea 100 1-half for the Opening. Old Annuity 111 3-4ths to 7-8ths. New Ditto 111 3-4ths for the Opening. Three per Cent. no Price. Emperor's Loan 118 1-8th. Royal Aſſurance 110. London Aſſurance 14 1-half. African 15. India Bonds 61. to 2s. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto 5 l. 18 s. to 6 l. Premium. South Sea ditto 4 l. 5 s. Prem. New Bank Circulation 1 l. 2 s. 6 d. Prem. Salt Tallies 3 to 4 1-half Premium. Engliſh Copper 2 l. 8 s. Welſh ditto, no Price. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 per Cent. Prem. Three per Cent. ditto 1 1-4th per Cent. Premium. Million Bank 116 to 117.

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